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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A document management system, the system comprising:
    a physical-document monitoring device comprising:
        a document coupling device,
        a sensor coupled to the document coupling device, the sensor operable to sense a state of a document and to generate a signal representative thereof, and
        a computer coupled to the sensor and the document coupling device, the computer operable to determine a document state based on the signal.

2.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the document coupling device is adapted to bind a document.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the document state comprises the number of document pages.

4.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the document coupling device is part of the sensor and facilitates sensing the document state.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the sensor senses the number of pages based on capacitance.

6.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the document state comprises an environmental condition of a document.

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7.   (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the environmental condition comprises illumination.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a wireless communication device coupled to the computer, the wireless communication device operable to send data from and receive data for the computer.

9.   (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the sent data comprises the determined document state.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the received data comprises state data for a non-physical version of a document.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the received data comprises document meta-data.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the document meta-data is received in the form of a text string.

13.   (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the received data comprises a document location.

14.   (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the received data comprises an allowable document state.

15.   (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the allowable document state comprises a rule that expresses the allowable document state.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer is further operable to determine whether an allowable document state has been violated.

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17.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the monitoring device further comprises a display device operable to provide a visual indication of physical document status.

18.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the monitoring device further comprises a user input device coupled to the computer.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the computer is further operable to generate a wireless message to signify that activation of the user input device has occurred.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method by which a physical-document monitoring device facilitates management of a physical document, the method comprising:

sensing a state of a physical document with a sensor coupled to a document coupling device;

generating a signal representing the document state with the sensor;

determining the document state based on the signal with a computer coupled to the sensor and the document coupling device; and

generating a wireless signal to send a representation of representing the document state to a remote device.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising coupling the physical-document monitoring device to the document.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein coupling comprises binding the document.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the document state comprises the number of document pages.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein sensing a state of a document comprises sensing an electrical value affected by a dielectric.

25. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the document state comprises the location of the document.

26. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the document state comprises an environmental condition of the document.

27. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving document meta-data.

28. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving state data for a non-physical version of a document.

29. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
receiving an allowable document state; and
storing the allowable document state.

30. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising determining whether an allowable document state has been violated.

31. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising providing a visual indication of physical document status.

32. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
detecting activation of a user input device; and
generating a wireless signal to report the activation.

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33. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause a physical-document monitoring device comprising one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

determining whether a state of a document has been sensed with a sensor coupled to a document coupling device;

determining the document state with a computer coupled to the sensor and the document coupling device; and

generating a wireless message representing to send a representation of the document state to a remote device.

34. (Original) The article of claim 33, wherein the document state comprises the number of document pages.

35. (Original) The article of claim 34, wherein determining a document state comprises determining an electrical value affected by a dielectric.

36. (Original) The article of claim 33, wherein the document state comprises the location of the document.

37. (Original) The article of claim 33, wherein the document state comprises an environmental condition of the document.

38. (Original) The article of claim 33, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising determining whether document meta-data has been received.

39. (Original) The article of claim 33, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising determining whether state data for a non-physical version of a document has been received.

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40. (Original) The article of claim 33, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

      determining whether an allowable document state has been received; and

      storing the allowable document state.

41. (Original) The article of claim 33, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising determining whether an allowable document state has been violated.

42. (Original) The article of claim 33, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising determining a visual indication of physical document status.

43. (Original) The article claim 33, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

      determining whether activation of a user input device has occurred; and

      generating a wireless message to report the activation.

44. (Withdrawn) A document management system, the system comprising:

      a document tracking device, the document tracking device operable to:

            store non-physical versions of documents and state data for physical versions of documents, and

            manage access to the non-physical document versions and the state data.

45. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, wherein the state data comprises the number of pages of a physical version.

46. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, wherein the state data comprises the location of a physical version.

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47.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, wherein the state data comprises an environmental condition of a physical version.

48.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, wherein the document tracking device is further operable to:

    determine whether a physical version state has been received; and

    if a physical state has been received, update the state data.

49.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, wherein the one or more memory locations are further operable to store state data for the non-physical versions.

50.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 49, wherein the document tracking device is further operable to:

    determine whether a state change has occurred to a non-physical version of a document;

    determine whether the non-physical version has an associated physical-document monitoring device; and

    if the physical version has an associated physical-document monitoring device, initiate a message representing the state change.

51.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, wherein the one or more memory locations are further operable to store meta-data for the documents.

52.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, wherein the document tracking device is further operable to:

    receive a physical document registration request;

    determine if an associated non-physical document exists; and

    associate the non-physical version with a physical-document monitoring device.

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53. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, wherein the one or more memory locations are further operable to store allowable states for the physical versions.

54. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 53, wherein the document tracking device is further operable to:

determine whether a message regarding an allowable state of a physical version has been received; and

if the message has been received, store the allowable state.

55. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 53, wherein the document tracking device is further operable to generate a message for a physical-document monitoring device regarding an allowable state for a physical version.

56. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 53, wherein the states are expressed in the form of rules.

57. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 53, wherein the document tracking device is further operable to determine whether a message indicating that an allowable state has been violated has been received.

58. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 53, wherein the document tracking device is further operable to determine whether an allowable state has been violated based on a received state.

59. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, wherein the document tracking device comprises:

memory to store the non-physical versions of documents and the state data for physical versions of documents;

a document management engine to manage access to the non-physical versions of documents; and

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mediators to manage access to the state data of the physical versions of documents.

60.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, wherein the document tracking device is further operable to:

receive a signal indicating that an input device of a physical-document monitoring device has been activated; and

alter the editing rights of an electronic version of the associated document.

61.   (Withdrawn) A method for document management, the method comprising:

storing non-physical versions of documents;

receiving state data for physical versions of the documents;

associating the state data with the appropriate non-physical versions; and

managing access to the non-physical versions and the state data.

62.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 61, wherein the state data comprises the number of pages of a physical version.

63.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 61, wherein the state data comprises the location of a physical version.

64.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 61, wherein the state data comprises an environmental condition of a physical version.

65.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 61, further comprising storing state data for the non-physical versions of the documents.

66.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 65, further comprising:

determining whether a state change has occurred to a non-physical version of a document;

determining whether the non-physical version has an associated physical-document monitoring device; and

if the non-physical version has an associated physical-document monitoring device, initiating a message representing the state change.

67.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 61, further comprising:

receiving a physical document registration request;

determining if an associated non-physical document exists; and

associating the non-physical version with a physical-document monitoring device.

68.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 61, further comprising storing allowable states for physical versions of the documents.

69.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68, further comprising receiving a message regarding a physical version allowable state.

70.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68, further comprising generating a message for a physical-document monitoring device regarding an allowable state for a physical version of a document.

71.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68, further comprising:

determining whether a message indicating that an allowable state has been violated has been received; and

if such a message has been received, associating the message with a non-physical version and storing a notification of the violation.

72.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68, further comprising determining whether an allowable state has been violated based on a received state.

73.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 61, further comprising:

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receiving a signal indicating that an input device of a physical-document monitoring device has been activated; and

altering the editing rights of an electronic version of the associated document.

74. (Withdrawn) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

storing non-physical versions of documents;

determining whether state data for physical versions of the documents has been received;

associating the state data with the appropriate non-physical versions; and

managing access to the non-physical versions and the state data.

75. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 74, wherein the state data comprises the number of pages of a physical version.

76. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 74, wherein the state data comprises the location of a physical version.

77. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 74, wherein the state data comprises an environmental condition of a physical version.

78. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 74, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause machines to perform operations comprising storing state data for the non-physical versions of the documents.

79. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 78, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause machines to perform operations comprising:

determining whether a state change has occurred to a non-physical version of a document;

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determining whether the non-physical version has an associated physical-document monitoring device; and

if the non-physical version has an associated physical-document monitoring device, initiating a message representing the state change.

80.   (Withdrawn) The article of claim 74, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause machines to perform operations comprising:

determining whether a physical document registration request has been received;

determining if an associated non-physical document exists; and

if an associated non-physical version exists, associating the non-physical version with a physical-document monitoring device.

81.   (Withdrawn) The article of claim 74, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause machines to perform operations comprising storing allowable states for physical versions of the documents.

82.   (Withdrawn) The article of claim 81, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause machines to perform operations comprising determining whether a message regarding a physical version allowable state has been received.

83.   (Withdrawn) The article of claim 81, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause machines to perform operations comprising generating a message for a physical-document monitoring device regarding an allowable state for a physical version of a document.

84.   (Withdrawn) The article of claim 81, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause machines to perform operations comprising:

determining whether a message indicating that an allowable state has been violated has been received; and

if such a message has been received, associating the message with a non-physical version and storing a notification of the violation.

85.   (Withdrawn) The article of claim 81, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause machines to perform operations comprising determining whether an allowable state has been violated based on a received state.

86.   (Withdrawn) The article of claim 74, wherein the instructions are further operable to cause machines to perform operations comprising:

determining whether a signal indicating activation of an input device of a physical-document monitoring device has been received; and

altering the editing rights of an electronic version of the associated document.

87.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the physical document comprises a paper-based document.

88.   (Previously Presented) The method of 20, wherein the physical document comprises a paper-based document.

89.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 33, wherein the physical document comprises a paper-based document.

90.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the document coupling device is adapted to couple the monitoring device to a physical document.

91.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 90, wherein the document coupling device is one of a staple, a paper clip, or a binder clip.